(c) whether Government agree with conclusions as given in the latest report on the State of World population quoted in the news-item referred to in part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The Government are aware that the excellent results achieved by the Kerala State in respect of many parameters of Human Resource Development have created conditions for speedy fertility decline as indicated in UNFPA's "The State of World Population 1992". On the other hand, the low levels of achievement in respect of similar parameters in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have created conditions in which the fertility levels continue to remain high. This is clearly brought out in the comparative statement enclosed as Annexe-I (*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 59).

The need for improving parameters such as female literacy, age at marriage of females, socio-economic status of women and bringing down the infant mortality rate with a view to creating conditions for speedy fertility decline is already well recognised. Accordingly, a Committee of the National Development Council has been constituted to evolve a National Population Policy and recommend appropriate strategic interventions based on a holistic and multisectoral apprpach to the population control efforts in the country. The Eighth Five Year Plan also highlights the need for taking action to improve the socio-economic determinants of fertility such as female literacy age of marriage, employment opportunities for women and their status in the society.

AIDS in Manipur

3843. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Manipur is one of the most severely AIDS affected areas;

(b) whether Voluntary Health Association and the ICMR have conducted separate surveys in Manipur to find out the exact incidence of AIDS, if so, the details of the findings;

(c) what are the major recommendations of these studies; and

(d) whether it is a fact that no special allocation were made to deal with this increasing problem; if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The Voluntary Health Association and ICMR have not conducted any separate surveys in Manipur to find out the exact incidence of AIDS. However, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric diseases Calcutta, under ICMR, nave established an ICMR HIV surveillance centre to study indepth the problem of drug addiction, HIV infection and AIDS in Manipur. Major high risk group found in Manipur are intravenous drug users, prostitutes and traders. Seropositivity was highest among IVDU's (50—70 per cent) and comparatively lower in prostitutes (3 per cent) and antenatal expectants (1—5 per cent).

(d) Adequate amount of assistance in cash and kind (Rs. 35.00 lakhs during 1991-92) were released to the state of Manipur to deal with the problem of AIDS. Under the World Bank aided National AIDS Control programme it is proposed to take up programmes to create awareness among masses regarding drug abuse, to ensure the safety of blood and blood products and to control Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in a phased manner.

Visit of Lt. Goverument to Vasant Kunj

3844. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lt. Governor of Delhi visited Vasant Kunj